

Session V

Joining the SRPC Family

To join the SRPC family requires:

I. A _____ OF FAITH IN CHRIST

Membership Question #1

“Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?”

It is important to come to grips with the bad news of our own depravity, because without this truth, the good news of the gospel is insignificant. It is vital to admit that God’s displeasure is justly deserved, that we are naturally, deliberately, and slavishly sinful.

Membership Question #2

“Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?”

A key word in this membership vow is “alone.” It is vital to realize that justification comes through faith plus nothing. In no way do we contribute to our salvation. Also key is the word “resting,” conveying the idea that we have repented not only of our sins, but also of our righteousness—of attempting to earn our own salvation.

II. _____ IN SRPC

Membership Question #3

“Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of my ability?”

A. ATTEND WEEKEND _____.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Pick up and read the guide, “Preparing to Worship in His Glorious Presence.”

B. JOIN A _____.

Relationships are at the center of the Christian life. Even God exists as Trinity, reminding us that relationships are intrinsic to the structure of reality and foundational to the universe. Likewise, the Christian life cannot and should not be lived in isolation, but in face-to-face relationships in which encouragement, accountability, and friendship are living realities. Each small group is led by a trained leader whose calling is to oversee the spiritual maturity of the group members. This is how members of SRPC grow.

C. SERVE ON A _____.

At SRPC the primary role of the church staff is to _____. It's the _____ to do the ministry. *Ephesians 4:11-12* "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

	<u>Traditional Church</u>	<u>SRPC</u>
Owner	_____	_____
Employer	_____	_____
Employee	_____	_____
Customers	_____	_____

D. PRACTICE _____.

What is tithing? Setting apart _____ of your income each week for the work of the kingdom. *Malachi 3:7-12* "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house.

What is stewardship?

What makes us lavish givers?

- Getting the _____
2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- Passion for God's _____
Psalms 70:4 Let all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; and let those who love Thy salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified."
- _____
Luke 17:17 And Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine-- where are they?"
- _____—It's just good investing!
Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Giving at SRPC

- The General Fund
- Capital Campaigns
- Seven Rivers Christian School
- SRPC's commitment to good stewardship and _____

III. THE _____ OF PURITY AND PEACE

Membership Question #4

“Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?”

It is expected that every church member, no matter the depth of spiritual maturity, is _____ to live a life of obedience to Christ, free from immoral practices. In our culture there is a great deal of confusion about what it means to live the Christian life, especially in the area of sexuality. Therefore, we think it is important to let people know up front what we understand the Bible to teach in this area. We believe that sex is a gift from God by which we declare to a spouse that we are committed exclusively and completely to them. On that basis we believe that sex outside of heterosexual marriage is wrong. For married couples, we believe that the marriage covenant is permanent and that divorce is permissible only after desertion or a fundamental breaking of that covenant by one partner by adultery.

Membership Question #5

“Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, promising to study its purity and peace?”

What guidelines does the Bible give for working out interpersonal disputes?

Go directly to those with whom you have a problem and go directly to those who have a problem with you.

Proverbs 17:9 *“He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.”*

Matthew 5:23,24 *“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”*

What does the Bible say about those who sow discord in God’s family?

Proverbs 6:19 *“He who sows discord among the brethren is an abomination to the Lord.”* ***James 1:26*** *“If anyone thinks himself to be religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this own man’s religion is worthless.”*

Titus 3:10,11 *“Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.”*

IV. PROCEDURE FOR JOINING

- A. Sign up to meet with the interviewing team if you want to be interviewed for membership. This sign up takes place after class five. Should you miss the sign up, call the church office to set up an interview.**
- B. Be sure you have completed all the Pastor's Class requirements including:**
 - 1. Attending all the Pastor's Class sessions, making up no more than two by CD or by listening online.**
 - 2. Completing all the assignments found in the Pastor's Class manual.**
 - 3. Attending weekend worship regularly (anyone who hasn't attended worship for at least three months is strongly urged to do so before coming for a membership interview).**
 - 4. Answer the membership questions in the affirmative.**
 - a. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
 - b. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
 - c. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
 - d. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
 - e. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to further its purity and peace?
 - 5. Be prepared to tell the story of your relationship with Christ.**
- C. If you are not ready to join SRPC at this time, you do not have to take the Pastor's Class over when you are. At any future point, should you wish to join, simply call the church office and ask for an interview for membership.**
- D. If you have never been baptized, and are making your first public profession of faith, we would be honored to baptize you during the worship service. Let the elder know during your interview and we will schedule your baptism (or baptism of your child(ren)). A mandatory baptism meeting will be scheduled a week prior to the baptisms with the pastor.**

ASSIGNMENT

- 1. Read *"Preparation for Worshiping in His Glorious Presence."*
- 2. Read chapters 12-13 (pp117-133) in *The Apostles' Creed: Rooted.*
- 3. Sign up to meet with an Interview Team if you wish to pursue membership.